

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA/BR:RWZIMMERMANN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

INFO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BR

SUBJECT:FBIS ITEMS ON ALLEGED DELIVERY OF NUCLEAR ARMS
TO BRAZIL

1. IN THE FBIS DAILY REPORT, TUESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 1975,
VOL VI NO. 175, TWO ARTICLES CONCERNING THE ALLEGED DELIV-
ERY OF NUCLEAR ARMS BY FRENCH FREIGHTER FLAMENGO TO SANTOS
HAVE STIMULATED INTEREST HERE, INCLUDING ONE CONGRESSIONAL
STAFF REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION. FBIS IDENTIFIES BUENOS
AIRES TELAM AS SOURCE OF BOTH ARTICLES, WHICH ARE DATE-
LINED SAO PAULO, 8 SEPTEMBER.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF FIRST ARTICLE. STRICT SECURITY MEASURES
WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY THE SECOND ARMY AT THE PORT OF SAN-
TOS AND VIA ANCHIETA, FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE FREIGHTER,
FLAMENGO FROM LE HAVRE, FRANCE, WHICH WILL UNLOAD 1,700
CASES CONTAINING NUCLEAR WEAPONS (ARITAMENTOS NUCLEARES)

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FOR THE SECOND MILITARY REGION, SAO PAULO. THE SHIP WILL

HAVE PRIORITY AT THE DOCKS, WHERE THE CASES WILL BE UNLOADED RAPIDLY. THE CARGO WILL BE TRANSPORTED THROUGH VIA ANCHIETA TO SAO PAULO.

THE NUCLEAR MATERIAL WILL BE TRANSPORTED UNDER STRICT CONTROLS. AMONG THE WEAPONS DUE TO ARRIVE THERE ARE

TURRETS (TORRES DE COMBATE) TO BE INSTALLED IN TANK CHASSIS (PLATFORMAS MOBILES). THE SECOND ARMY DID NOT GIVE ANY SPECIFIC DETAILS ON THE TYPE OF THE WEAPONS TO ARRIVE, FOR SECURITY REASONS. END TEXT.

3. THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTED PORTIONS OF SECOND ARTICLE. BEGIN TEXT. HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE MILITARY SPOKESMEN TODAY CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT BRAZIL IS GETTING READY TO RECEIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BUT DID NOT GIVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CARGO OF THE SHIP FLAMENGO WHICH WILL SOON DOCK AT THE LOCAL PORT...

THE PRESENCE OF NUMEROUS MILITARY UNITS STANDING GUARD IN THE PORT AREA AND THE ACCESS ROADS TO THE CITY FED THE

RUMORS, WHICH CONTINUED TO GROW DUE TO THE LACK OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION ON THE MATTER.

OFFICIAL SOURCES STATED THAT, IN FACT, VARIOUS PARTS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF GENERATORS PLANNED FOR USE IN THE BRAZILIAN PROGRAM OF PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF ATOMIC ENERGY, WHICH ARE BEING NOW ASSEMBLED, WERE ARRIVING ON THE FLAMENGO.

IT WAS ALSO SAID THAT MODERN WEAPONS, INCLUDING MISSILES WITH THEIR LAUNCHING PLATFORMS, WERE GOING TO BE RECEIVED FOR THE SECOND ARMY.

THE OFFICIAL SILENCE CONTINUES, AND THE POSSIBILITY IS NOT DISCOUNTED THAT FOR OBVIOUS SECURITY REASONS THE OFFICIALS HAVE DECIDED NOT TO RELEASE ANY INFORMATION... END TEXT.

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4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AND COMMENTS EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE. KISSINGER

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